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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/662,336	09/16/2003	Hiroaki Sakakura	25702	9254
20529	7590	08/03/2005	EXAMINER	
NATH & ASSOCIATES 1030 15th STREET, NW 6TH FLOOR WASHINGTON, DC 20005				ZANELLI, MICHAEL J
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
				3661

DATE MAILED: 08/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/662,336	SAKAKURA, HIROAKI
	Examiner Michael J. Zanelli	Art Unit 3661

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 May 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL.                    2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.  
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
 a) All    b) Some \* c) None of:  
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

1. This is in response to the amendment filed 5/25/05. Claims 1-4 are pending.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission of the prior art on pages 1-4 of the specification in view of (Baset (US006703919), Tang et al. (US006724322) and Bodley-Scott et al. (US006290269)).
  - A. As per claims 1 and 2, applicant states on pages 1-4 of the specification that it was conventional in the vehicle door lock art to provide a smart entry system in which a portable machine communicated with a vehicle mounted controller through wireless means whereby an ID code is verified and permits the door to be unlocked and opened by operation of the door handle (page 1, line 26 to page 2, line 11). Applicant further states that it was conventional to permit a user to verify that a door has been locked by operating the door handle without unlocking the door during a confirmation period (page 3, lines 5-16). Applicant states that the conventional systems do not provide an indication when the system is in the confirmation period (page 4, lines 1-9)
  - B. However, at the time of applicant's invention it was well-known in the vehicle passive/active remote key entry art to provide visual and/or audio indications/feedback of the system operations/status. For example, Baset (Abs; col. 3, lines 23-27), Tang (col. 1, lines 44-57; col. 2, lines 39-41) and Bodley-Scott (Fig. 6) disclose using LEDs and other display indicators, both in the portable machine and on the vehicle, to inform the user as to completion of a requested operation and/or the current status of the system. One of

ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to include such indicators in the passive remote key systems noted above because it would have provided the user with an indication of the system's current status.

C. As per claim 4, as above wherein sensors may be provided to indicate the opening/closing status of the vehicle's doors (see as exemplary Baset, col. 3, lines 11-13).

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's admission of the prior art in view of (Baset, Tang et al. and Bodley-Scott et al.) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Huizenga (US20030095416) and Cadman (FR2724613).

A. The prior art is applied as noted above relative to claim 1. The claimed invention differs in that the display is provided in the vicinity of the door handle with the request switch for transmitting a request to the portable machine for an ID code.

B. At the time of applicant's invention it was well-known in the vehicle passive/active remote key entry art to provide visual indicators (i.e., LEDs) integrated into the door handle assembly to inform the user of the current status of the system. For example, Huizenga discloses LEDs incorporated into the door handle assembly (Figs. 3,6) to indicate the status of the entry/security system [0039-0040] whereas Cadman discloses incorporating different colored lights in the door handle to confirm whether the door is locked/unlocked (Abs.). One of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to locate the display indicators in the vicinity of the door handle because such placement was well-known in the art.

5. **REMARKS**

A. Applicant's remarks have been duly considered, but are not persuasive. It is clear from applicant's discussion of the prior art appearing on pages 1-4 of the specification that applicant's improvement of known vehicle entry systems is the provision of visual indicators to inform the user of the operating status of the system. However, as noted above it was extremely well-known in the art to provide visual and/or audio indicators to inform the user of the current status of the vehicle entry/security system. Applicant has merely incorporated known technology for solving a common problem in the vehicle system control art.

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael J. Zanelli whose telephone number is (571) 272-6969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thomas G. Black can be reached on (571) 272-6956. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/mjz



MICHAEL J. ZANELLI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER